

Compositions and Methods for Skin Treatment

Inventor: Simon Erani Brooklyn, New York

Related Applications

The present application claims all rights of priority to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/222,895 filed August 3, 2000, which is fully incorporated herein by reference.

Field of Invention

The present inventions are directed to compositions and methods for the treatment of skin, including compositions and methods of countering the effects of sun damage and aging.

Background of the Invention

The skin is considered the largest organ of the human body and has numerous different functions, including, for example, thermoregulation, protection, metabolic functions and sensation. As the outermost barrier of an organism, however, it is continually subjected to damages from causes such as ultraviolet light, contaminants, stress, and so forth. Over time, both environmental and genetic factors can contribute to visible skin damage.

As is well known, a large number of products have been introduced to the market to reduce such skin damage and/or its appearance, and even to reverse it to the extent possible. It is a important objective in the art to develop and introduce new and improved compositions for application to the skin to better achieve those objectives.

Summary of the Invention

It is an object of the present invention to provide compositions for skin treatment.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide compositions for improving the appearance of the skin.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide methods for tracking skin damage and the reversal thereof.

In accordance with the invention, compositions are provided for the treatment of the skin to reduce and/or reverse the visible appearance of skin damage, and to provide younger, healthier looking skin. In the preferred embodiment, the composition includes one to five of the following active components for topical application: Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide; Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate; Tocopheryl Polypeptide; Cholecalciferol Polypeptide; and Niacinamide Polypeptide. Preferably all five are utilized in combination to achieve best results.

In further embodiments of the invention, additional compositions and regimens for skin treatment are provided. In yet further embodiments, a method is provided for tracking and monitoring damage to the skin occurring over time.

Further objects and features of the invention will become apparent in conjunction with the disclosure herein.

Detailed Description of the Invention and the Preferred Embodiments

In accordance with the present invention new skin treatment compositions are provided for improving the appearance of the skin. The compositions herein have been found to demonstrate significant effectiveness in reducing and/or reversing the visible appearance of skin damage and imperfections, to provide the appearance of younger, healthier skin, when applied topically.

In accordance with the invention, the composition includes Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide, Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate, Tocopheryl Polypeptide, Cholecalciferol Polypeptide, and/or Niacinamide Polypeptide. It is desirable that these particular components are utilized, as opposed to other forms of Vitamin A, Vitamin C, etc., due to the fact that they have been found to produce significantly superior results. A suitable supplier for these components is Brooks Industries, Inc. of South Plainfield, New Jersey.

In one embodiment of the invention, at least one of these components is topically applied to the skin. In the preferred embodiments of the invention, however, two to five of these components are applied to achieve more effective results. Those two or more components can be mixed in any levels desired to achieve improvements in skin appearance, although preferred formulations are disclosed below.

In the preferred embodiment of the invention (referred to herein as MDT-5), a composition is provided including all five of the treatment components are included. The five components of MDT-5 can be mixed in any desired levels, although they are preferably provided in the relative proportions shown in Table 1a.

Table 1 - Molecule Dispersion Technology (MDT) Formulations

Table 1a: MDT-5

Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide	95%
Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate	1.25%
Tocopheryl Polypeptide	1.25%
Cholecalciferol Polypeptide	1.25%
Niacinamide Polypeptide	1.25%

In an alternate embodiment (MDT-5H), the components are provided in the relative proportions shown in Table 1b:

Table 1b: MDT-5H

Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide	89.75%
Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate	5.00%
Tocopheryl Polypeptide	2.50%
Cholecalciferol Polypeptide	1.25%
Niacinamide Polypeptide	1.50%

In a further alternate embodiment (MDT-10), the components are provided in the relative proportions shown in Table 1c:

Table 1c: MDT-10

Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide	1.5%
Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate	5%
Tocopheryl Polypeptide	2.5%
Cholecalciferol Polypeptide	0.5%
Niacinamide Polypeptide	1.5%
Pantothenic Polypeptide	1.5%
Biopeptide EL	3%
APT	2%
Beta Glucan in aloe vera carrier	1.0%
Hyaluronic Acid (0.5%)	3.0%

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Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide	Range:	0.01 % - 100 %
Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate	Range:	0.01 % - 100 %
Tocopheryl Polypeptide	Range:	0.01 % - 100 %
Cholecalciferol Polypeptide	Range:	0.01 % - 100 %
Niacinamide Polypeptide	Range:	0.01 % - 100 %

Consistent with the invention, a composition may be applied to the skin wherein the

of Figure 3 is another desirable product, which does not include the components of MDT-5, although MDT-5 can be added to it if desired.

Table 2: Formulas A-1, A-2 and A-3 ("A-BombTM")

Formula A-1: 2% MDT (preferably MDT-5)

Formula A-2: 5% MDT (preferably MDT-5)

Formula A-3: 10% MDT (preferably MDT-5)

Ingredients:

Water	70-90%
Glycerin	2.5%
Myristyl Myristate	2.5%
MDT:	1-10%
PEG-8 Distearate	1-3%
Glyceryl Stearate/PEG-100 Stearate	2-5%
PEG-40 Stearate	0.5-3%
Sorbitan Stearate	0.5-3%
Cetyl Alcohol	0.5-3%
Carbomer	0.2-0.8%
Hydroxyethylcellulose	0.1-0.5%
Triethanolamine	0.2-0.6%
Diazolidinyl Urea	0.3%
Methylparaben	0.2%
Propylparaben	0.1%

Tetrasodium EDTA	0.1-0.2%
Palma Rosa Extract	0.5-5%
Ylang Ylang Extract	0.5-5%
Jasmine Extract	0.5-5%
Geranium Extract	0.5-5%
Lavender Extract	0.5-5%
Marigold Extract	0.5-5%
Galbanum Extract	0.5-5%
DMDM Hydantoin	0.05-0.1%
Iodopropynyl Butylcarbamate	0.05-0.1%

Table 3: Formula H-1("H-Bomb"TM)

Water	60 - 99.9%	Preferred 70-90%
Cyclomethicone	2.0 - 5.0%	
Glycolic Acid:	0.1 - 20.0%	
Glycerine	2.0 - 5.0 %	
C ₁₂ -15 Alkyl Octonate	2.0 - 5.0 %	
Stearyl Alcohol	2.0 - 5.0 %	
Ceteareth-20	2.0 - 5.0 %	
Aluminum Starch Octenylsuccinate	2.0 - 5.0 %	
Propylene Glycol	2.0 - 5.0 %	
PEG-40 Stearate	1.0 - 3.0 %	
Petrolatum	1.0 - 3.0 %	
Glyceryl Stearate	1.0 - 3.0 %	

Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide:	1.50 % Preferred: 1.5 & 2.0%; Range: 0.5-100%
Shea Butter	1.0 - 3.0 %
Sorbitan Stearate	0.5 - 3%
Stearic Acid	1.0 - 3.0 %
Dimethicone	1.0 - 3.0 %
Methyl Glucose Sesquistearate	1.0 - 3.0 %
Ammonium Glycolate	0.5-3%
PEG-20 Methyl Glucose Sesquistearate	1.0 - 3.0 %
Magnesium Aluminum Silicate	0 - 1%
Lanolin Alcohol	0 - 1%
Stearamidopropyl Dimethylamine	0 - 1%
Isostearic Acid	0 - 1%
Polysorbate 20	0 - 1%
Diazolidinyl Urea	0.3%
Xanthan Gum	0.3%
Sorbic Acid	0.09%
Tetrasodium EDTA	0.1-0.2%
Allantoin	0.10 %
Simethicone	0.09 %
Orange Extract	0.01 % 0.01 - 5%
Palma Rosa Extract	0.01 % 0.01 - 5%
Lime Extract	0.01 % 0.01 - 5%
Lavender Extract	0.10 % 0.01 - 5%
Oak Moss Extract	0.10 % 0.01 - 5%

Galbanum Extract 0.10 % 0.01 - 5%

Table 4: Formula M-1 ("Multi-Vitamin Skin Solution")

Water	40-70%
Biopeptide EL	3.0%
ApT	2.0%
Vitamin A Polypeptide	1.5% (Retinyl Palmitate Polypeptide)
Vitamin B3 Polypeptide	1.5% (Niacinamide Polypeptide)
Vitamin B5 Polypeptide	1.5% (Pantothenic Acid Polypeptide)
Ascorbylmethysilanol	5.0% (Vitamin C)
Vitamin E Polypeptide	2.5% (Tocopherol Polypeptide)
Vitamin D Polypeptide	0.5% (Cholecalciferol Polypeptide)
Beta Glucan in Aloe Vera Carrier	1.0%
Hyaluronic Acid (0.5%)	3.0%
Peg-40 Stearate	2-5%
Sorbitan Stearate	2-5%
Carbomer	0.2-0.5%
Methylparaben	0.2%
Propylparaben	0.1%
Diazolidinyl Urea	0.3%
Tetra Sodium EDTA	0.1-0.2%
Trie Thanolamine	0.2-0.5%
Cetyl Alcohol	2-5%
Glycerin	2-5%

DMDM Hydantoin	0.05-0.1%
Iodopropynyl Butylcarbamate	0.05-0.1%

Table 5: Formula SF-1 ("Safe FaceTM" SPF-30 UVA & UVB Protection)

Active Ingredients:

Ethylhexyl Methoxycinnamate	Preferred: 6.00%	Range: 1-100%
Octyl Salicylate	Preferred: 3.00%	Range:1-100%
Butyl Methoxydibenzoylmethane	Preferred: 2.00%	Range:1-100%
MDT (pref. MDT-5)	Preferred: 1-10%	

This formulation also contains a sunscreen, such as, for example, any of the sunscreen (sunblock) formulations currently available on the market. In one embodiment, for example, the ingredients include:

Water	60-99.9%
Glycerine	2.5%
PEG-40 Stearate	2.5%
Bis-Diglyceryl Polyacyladipate-2	2.0 - 5.0%
C12-15 Alkyl Benzoate	2.0 - 5.0%
Dipropylene Glycol Dibenzoate	1.0 - 3.0 %
PPG-15 Stearyl Ether Benzoate	1.0 - 3.0 %
Stearyl Alcohol	1.0 - 3.0 %
Ceteareth-20	1.0 - 3.0 %
Methyl Glucose Sesquistearate	1.0 - 3.0 %

Peg-20 Methyl Glucose Sesquistearate	1.0 - 3.0 %
Sorbitan Stearate	1.0 - 3.0 %
Green Tea Extract	0 - 1 %
Chamomile Exrtract	0 - 1 %
Panthenol	0 - 1 %
Carbomer	0 - 1 %
Triethanolamine	0 - 1 %
Diazolidinyl Urea	0 - 3 %
Methylparaben	0 - 1 %
Propylparaben	0 - 1 %
Tetrasodium EDTA	0 - 1 %
Allantoin	0 - 1 %
Palma Rosa Extract	0.01 %
Ylang Ylang Extract	0.01 %
Jasmine Extract	0.01 %
Geranium Extract	0.01 %
Lavender Extract	0.01 %
Marigold Extract	0.01 %
Galbanum Extract	0.01 %

Table 6: Formulas T-1, T-2 and T-3 ("TransportTM")

Formula # T-1: 2% MDT

Formula # T-2: 5% MDT

Formula # T-3: 10% MDT

Water	Preferred: 80-90%	
Glycolic Acid	Preferred: 3.5%, 5%, 10%, 15%	Range: 1.0-70%
Polysorbate 20	2-4%	
Green Tea Extract	1-5%	
Ethoxydiglycol	1-5%	
Ammonium Glycolate	1-2%	
MDT (pref. MDT 5)	Preferred: 1-10%	
Panthenol	.1-1%	
Chamomile Extract	.1-1%	
Aloe Powder	.1-1%	
Menthol	.001-.1%	
Tetrasodium EDTA	.1-.2%	
Methylchloroisothiazolinone	.05-.1%	
Methylisothiazolinone	.05-.1%	
Grapeseed Extract	.05-.5%	
Palma Rosa Extract	.01 %	
Ylang Ylang Extract	.01 %	
Jasmine Extract	.01 %	
Geranium Extract	.01 %	
Lavender Extract	.01 %	
Marigold Extract	.01 %	

Galbanum Extract	.01 %
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Table 7: Formulas S-1, S-2 and S-3 ("Serum™")

Formula # S-1: 2% MDT

Formula # S-2: 5% MDT

Formula # S-3: 10% MDT

Water	60-80%	
Ascorbylmethylsilanol	Preferred: 5%, 10%, 15%, 20%, 60%	Range: 1-100%
SD Alcohol 40	5-15%	
Propylene Glycol	2-7%	
MDT (pref. MDT 5)	1-10%	
Xanthan Gum	.3-1.0%	
Orange Extract	.05-.5%	
Palma Rosa Extract	.05-.5%	
Lime Extract	.05-.5%	
Lavender Extract	.05-.5%	
Oak Moss Extract	.05-.5%	
Galbanum Extract	.05-.5%	
Diazolidinyl Urea	.3%	
Methylparaben	.1%	
Propylparaben	.05%	
Tetrasodium EDTA	.1-.2%	

Other active ingredients which can be mixed with MDT or MDT-5 are provided in Table 8. One or more of the ingredients listed in Table 8 can be combined with MDT (particularly MDT-5), to provide further preparations for topical application to the skin. These ingredients can be included at any level desired, although preferred ranges are listed in the table.

Table 8: Additional Active Ingredients

Lactic Acid-	.1-99.99%
Salicylic Acid-	.1-99.99%
Bio Peptide EL-	1.0-99.99%
APT-	1.0-99.99%
Beta Glucan in Aloe Vera Carrier-	1.0-99.99%
Hyaluronic Acid-	3.0-99.99%
Ascorbyl Palmitate (C Ester)-	.1-99.99%
NAB Fennel Seed Extract-	1-99.99%
Water & Phospholipids& Superoxide Dismutase-	5.0-99.99%
Superoxide Dismutase-	.1-99.99%
Ascorbic Acid Polypeptide-	.5-99.99%
Saccharomyces Lysate Extract-	.5-1.0%
Water & Saccharomyces Lysate Extract	2.0-4.0%
Water & Phospholipids & Saccharomyces Lysate Extract-	5.0-15.0%
Silicon & Zinc & Copper & Iron & Magnesium Yeast Glycopeptide-	.1-2.0%
5% Solution of Biomin Cinque-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/Calcium Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Copper Ferment-	.5-5.0%

Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Germanium Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Iron Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Maganese Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Magnesium Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Selenium Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Silicon Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Butylene Glycol & Saccharomyces/ Zinc Ferment-	.5-5.0%
Water & Aloe Extract & Yeast Extract-	5.0-10.0%
Milk Protein & Plant Lipids & Plant Carbohydrates-	1.0-5.0%
Water & Bilberry Extract & Sugar Cane Extract & Sugar Maple Extract & Orange Extract & Lemon Extract-	5.0-15.0%
Water & Willow Bark Extract & Phospholipids-	5.0-10.0%
Water & Phospholipids & Bladderwrack Extract & Ivy Extract & Horsechestnut Extract-	1.0-5.0%
Phospholipids & Aloe Vera Gel-	1.0-5.0%
Squalane & Squalene & Glycolipids & Phytosterol & Tocopherol-	.5-10.0%
Water & Phospholipids & Evening Primrose Oil-	1.0-5.0%
Soybean Extract & Ceramide 3-	1.0-4.0%
Barley Oligosaccharides-	2.0-10.0%
Soy Dihydroxypropyldimonium Polyglucose & Propylene Glycol-	.5-10.0%
Water & Panthenol & Phospholipids-	2.0-10.0%
Water & Phospholipids & Tocopherol & Retinyl Palmitate	
Acetate & Ascorbyl Palmitate-	5.0-10.0%
Acrylate/Carbamate Copolymer & Lactic Acid-	.2-2.0%

Phosphoglycoproteins Water & Phospholipids & Glycoproteins-	1.0-10.0%
Soluble Collagen (Mwt: 4,000)-	1.0-10.0%
Hydrolyzed Elastin (Mwt: 4,000)-	.5-4.0%
Hydrolyzed Collagen-	.2-25.0%
Collagen Amino Acids (Mwt: 200)-	1.0-5.0%
Glyceryl Collagenate-	.5-5.0%
Eleseryl SH SHT-	3.0-10.0%
Liposomes Anti-Age-	5.0-15.0%
Seanamin AT-	3.0-5.0%
Tissulan-	2.0-5.0%
Vegeles WP SP-	3.0-10.0%
Vegeseryl HGP LP-	3.0-10.0%
Keratolan-	1.0-5.0%
Lactolan-	2.5-10.0%
Lipodermol-	1.0-3.0%
Melhydran-	3.0-7.0%
Oceagen-	1.0-5.0%
Prolactyl-	3.0-10.0%
Seanamin Su-	5.0-8.0%
Seanamin TH-	3.0-5.0%
Technobion-	5.0-10.0%
Cytokinol-	.5-2.0%
Dermosaccharides GY-	1.0-5.0%
Dermosaccharides HC-	1.0-3.0%

Dermosaccharides SEA-	1.0-3.0%
Seanamin MY-	5.0-8.0%
Technobion-	2.0-8.0%
Vitacell-	2.0-5.0%
Ceramides-	0.3-1.0%
Helioceram-	0.3-0.7%
Lipodermol-	1.0-3.0%
Sealipids-	1.0-3.0%
Sphingoceryl Fluid-	2.0-5.0%
Sphingoceryl Powder-	2.0-20.0%
Sphingoceryl VEG-	2.0-5.0%
Sphingoceryl WAX-	0.5-3.0%
Sphingosome AL-	3.0-7.0%
WS- Ceramides-	2.0-10.0%
Biophytex-	3.0-5.0%
Lipo-Biophytex-	3.0-5.0%
Peridermin-	3.0-5.0%
Rhizodermin-	3.0-7.0%
Sphingosome AL-	3.0-5.0%
Vegeles CPS-	2.0-7.0%
Vegeles SR-	3.0-5.0%
A.F.R.-	3.0-5.0%
Endonucleine-	3.0-5.0%
Oleo- A.F.R.-	2.0-3.0%

Vegeles PF-	2.0-3.0%
Dermosaccharides-	1.0-3.0%
Firmogen-	2.0-10.0%
Laricyl-	3.0-10.0%
Oceagen-	2.0-5.0%
Prosyncoll-	0.5-2.0%
Seanamin BD-	0.5-3.0%
Seanamin SU-	3.0-5.0%
Vegeseryl-	3.0-10.0%
Bioslimex-	3.0-5.0%
Liposomes Slimmigen-	5.0-7.0%
Seanamin BD-	0.5-3.0%
Slimmigen-	3.0-7.0%
Asebiol-	3.0-5.0%
Vegeles AHA-	2.0-5.0%
Alpha Lipoic Acid-	.1-99.99%
DMAE-	.1-99.99%
Vitamin E Acetate	.1-99.99%
Vitamin E Alcohol	.1-99.99%
Vitamin A Palnitrate	.1-99.99%
Vitamin B5 Pathenol	.1-99.99%

It should be noted that, in some of the tables, the ingredients and ranges provided for the formulas include ranges for materials which are non-active ingredients. The provision of a range or

level for a material is not meant to suggest or indicate that the material is necessarily an active ingredient or that the formulas are necessarily limited to those ranges. Rather any suitable level can be utilized, especially for the non-active ingredients. For example, in the composition of Table 5, any suitable sunblock can be used as an alternative to or in addition to the active ingredients listed.

Likewise, in all of the above formulations, the potency of the MDT can be varied as discussed above. If desired, the MDT can be from approximately 0.01% - 99% of the total composition, although preferred levels are 1-5%, 5-10%, 10-20%, or approximately 2%, 5% or 10%.

In a further preferred embodiments of the present invention, various alternative skin care methods or regimens are provided, as shown in the Tables 9a – 9e. According to these regimens, a sequence of products are applied to the skin as shown below.

Table 9: Preferred Skin Care Regimens

9a: Regimen 1

- 1) Glycolic Acid pads (3-20%)
- 2) Ascorbylmethylsilanol Pectinate (3-70%)
- 3) "A-Bomb" 0.5-70%

The above can be used in any order and can be applied in separate steps, or in a product (pads, lotions, or so forth) containing all three of the above. In addition, each one of the above three preferably has an MDT compound added, although, alternatively, one or more can be provided without MDT. In a further alternative embodiment, the three compounds are utilized, even if none

of them include an MDT compound (or MDT related compound), although the use of an MDT compound (or MDT related compound) is preferred.

9b: Regimen 2

Direct application of an MDT (e.g. MDT-5, MDT-5H or MDT10) compound or MDT related compound to the skin.

9c: Regimen 3

- 1) An MDT (e.g. MDT-5, MDT-5H or MDT10) compound or MDT related compound.
- 2) Glycolic Acid pads (2% - 20 %)
- 3) Vitamin C serum (5 - 70%)
- 4) "A Bomb" 0.5 - 50%

The above can be used in any order and can be applied in separate steps, or in a product (pads, lotions, or so forth) containing all three of the above. Compounds 2-4 can include an MDT or MDT related compound, or be free of any MDT or MDT related compounds. In the preferred embodiment, one or more (preferably all) of 2-4 include an MDT or MDT related compound.

9d: Regimen 4

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|---------|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Step 1- | A cleanser | |
| Step 2- | Transport No. 5, No. 10, No. 15 | Range: 0.1-100% |
| Step 3- | Serum No. 10, No. 20, No. 60 | Range: 0.1-100% |
| Step 4- | A Bomb No. 2, No. 5, No. 10 | Range: 0.1-100% |
| Step 5- | Safe Face | |

Preferably the products in the above embodiment are provided in the order disclosed above, although any other order of applications can be used as well.

9e: Regimen 5

In a further alternative or additional regimen, a consumer utilizes 4% glycolic acid pads, followed by 10% stabilized Vitamin C (in the form of Ascorbylmethysilanol or Ascorbylmethysilanol Pectinate), followed by 2% Vitamin A cream (i.e. "A-bomb"). This regimen is preferably provided in addition to or in conjunction with the use of products containing an MDT or MDT related compound of the present invention.

In a further alternative embodiment, 10% glycolic acid pads (with or without MDT or an MDT related compound), 20% stabilized Vitamin C (with or without MDT or an MDT related compound), and 10% A-bomb (with or without MDT or an MDT related compound) are provided.

In a further embodiment, 2-50 glycolic acid pads (with or without MDT or an MDT related compound), 2-99% stabilized Vitamin C (with or without MDT or an MDT related compound), and 0.5-99% A-bomb (with or without MDT or an MDT related compound) are provided.

For any of the above, the compounds can be applied separately (preferably in this order, although any order can be used), or a product can be provided combining all three of these materials.

In a further embodiment of the invention, consumers are provided with the ability to objectively monitor, record and verify the effectiveness of skin care products on their skin, preferably at the same location that they purchase those skin care products. This monitoring can be conducted

of any skin care product, but is preferably conducted of the products of the present invention in particular to demonstrate and memorialize their effectiveness.

In accordance with the method, a retail store or other commercial location is provided where a consumer can have an image taken of the condition of his or her skin. Preferably, this store or location is the same location where the consumer can go to purchase his or her skin care products. Further preferably, the consumer can purchase MDT products of the invention (or one of the other embodiments disclosed above) at that location.

At the retail location, images of the consumer's skin are taken with a camera. Preferably, the imaging begins before the first use of the skin treatment composition or skin care product. Over time, the consumer returns periodically to the store to purchase additional product. Preferably, each time more product is purchased additional images are taken of the skin (although images can also be taken between purchases or without any concurrent purchase), so as to create an ongoing record of the skin's appearance over time.

Thus, in this embodiment of the invention, consumers can easily monitor, track and record the continuing condition of their skin as they use particular skin care products. This tracking verifies whether or not the products are effective with records that demonstrate any changes in skin appearance and document the reduction and/or reversal of the appearance of damage or other imperfections. Furthermore, the consumer is provided with objective evidence in the form of photographs showing skin changes as he or she uses the skin care products being purchased (preferably the products of the invention). Preferably, these images are stored by the retail store, and also provided to the consumer. This evidence is superior to relying on generalized recollection of earlier skin appearance. Moreover, it is greatly superior to relying on claims by manufacturers or other vendors. Rather, commercially available skin care products are put to the direct test of the camera by the consumer.

Preferably, a 35 mm camera is utilized to track these changes. In one embodiment, that camera is a standard 35 mm camera including a ultraviolet (UV) filter on the lens to block out ultraviolet light, and preferably also including Kodak Tri-X 400 film and/or Kodak Gold Super 200 color film. This arrangement allows photography of the skin in greater detail. For example, the arrangement allows imaging of features to approximately 3mm down into the skin, which is of higher resolution and quality than a non-filtered photograph.

Alternatively, any other camera for high resolution imaging of the skin can be provided. In an alternate preferred embodiment, a digital camera having an ultraviolet filter is used, for capturing a digital image that is saved onto a computer and/or floppy disk. In further embodiments, any other photographic conditions or arrangements can be provided for high image resolution as known in the photographic arts.

Preferably, in accordance with the invention, the photographic conditions are strictly controlled to further facilitate the comparison of the photographs over time. In other words, , the conditions for taking the photographs, including, but not limited to, lighting, location, background, the camera, etc., are all strictly controlled and are the same for the subject from photograph to photograph. Further preferably, the conditions for developing the pictures, including, but not limited to, temperature, amount of developer, timing, etc. are also strictly controlled and are kept the same each time the film is developed for a given subject. If possible, a given technician always takes the pictures for a given subject over time, and a given technician always develops the pictures for a given subject over time, to further reduce any factors which could contribute to statistical variability in the image (i.e to qualities of the image not arising from the characteristics of the skin itself).

Having described this invention with regard to specific embodiments, it is to be understood that the description is not meant as a limitation since further embodiments, modifications and

